The samples collected have been extensively analysed by the Team in India and U.K. The results, *inter-alia*, suggestive of the presence of extra-terrestrial micro-organisms entering Earth's atmosphere, were presented at several international symposia/conferences in USA, Europe and India, where they were well received. After exhaustive international scientific scrutiny, a paper containing the path breaking findings has been accepted by the journal 'Microbiology Letters' of Federation of European Microbiology Societies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The National Task Team constituted by ISRO to study the possibility of a Lunar Mission has submitted a report which contain the scientific objectives of the Lunar Mission, the instrumentation required, spacecraft configuration, power and propulsion systems and the launch vehicle requirements and associated ground support requirements.

Projects running behind the schedule

†1039. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of on-going projects involving cost of over Rs. 100 crore is 275;

(b) if not, the exact number thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that their cost is increasing day by day;

(d) if so, the amount required for their completion at present and how much it exceeds the original cost anticipated earlier; and

(e) the amount spent thereon upto March, 2002 ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (e) There are 275 on-going Central Sector projects each costing Rs. 100 crore or more, on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. The estimated cost of completion of these projects as on 1.10.2002 was Rs. 1,95.723 crore, showing an increase of 23.4% over the original approved cost. As on 31.3.2002, the total expenditure on these projects amounts to Rs. 58,869 crore.

Fiscal incentives for central projects

1040. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to speed up implementation of the central projects with an investment of Rs. 20 crores or more, his Ministry is planning to introduce fiscal incentives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has identified any projects for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the projects and the Ministries under whose purview they fall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question do not arise.